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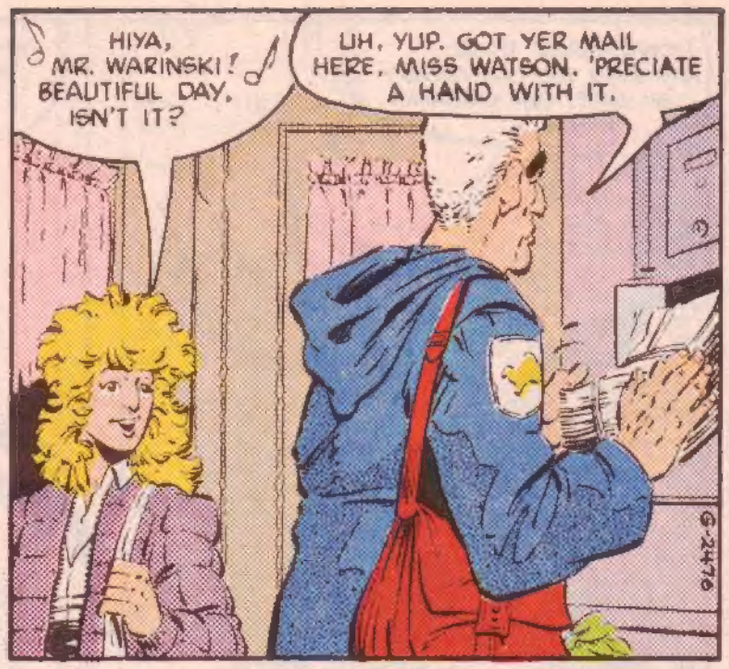
'mazing man
TM
IT'S A FUR-FLYIN' KITTY CATASTROPHE!
DESTEFANO/KEZEL
PLUS!
ZOOT SPUTNIK WHACKS THE AXIS POWERS!
by Denton Fixx and Fred Hembeck
DC
Abby's in Gotham City in SWAMP THING #51

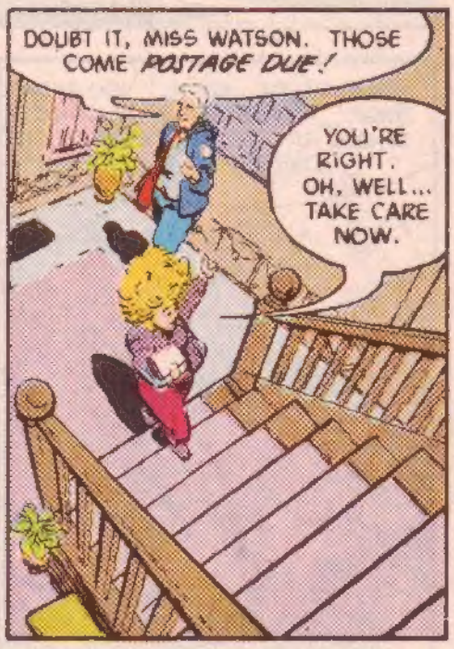
# 'mazing man

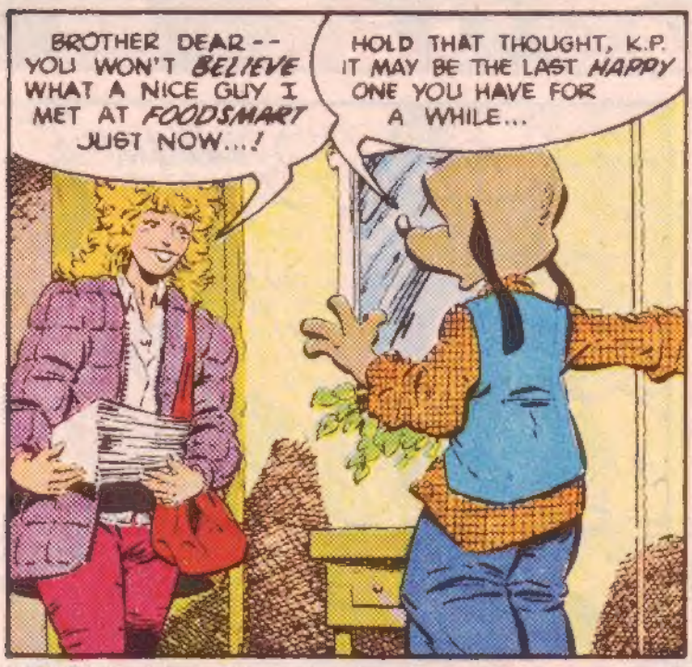
by BOB ROZAKIS & STEPHEN DeSTEFANO

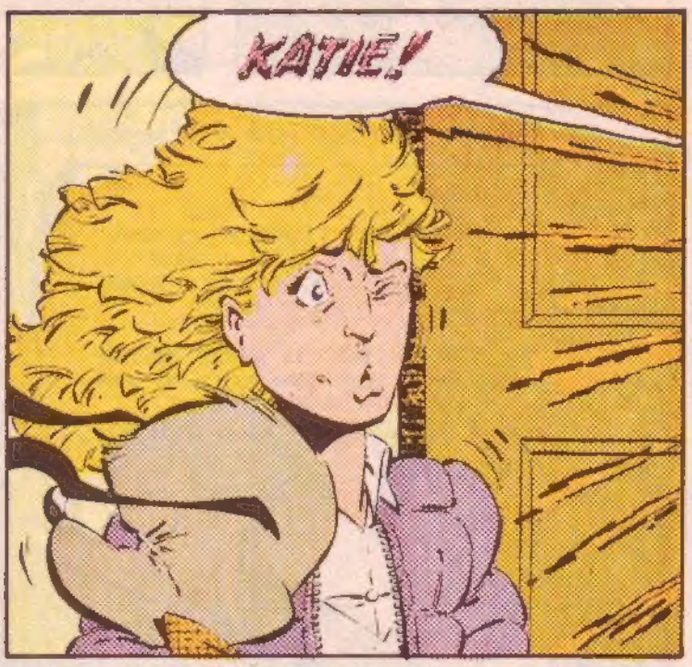
## "Over the River and Through the Woods..."

INKER - KARL KESEL
LETTERER - BOB LAPPAN
COLORIST - TOM ZIUKO
EDITOR - ALAN GOLD







BROTHER DEAR -- YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT A NICE GUY I MET AT FOODSMART JUST NOW...!
HOLD THAT THOUGHT, K.P. IT MAY BE THE LAST HAPPY ONE YOU HAVE FOR A WHILE...

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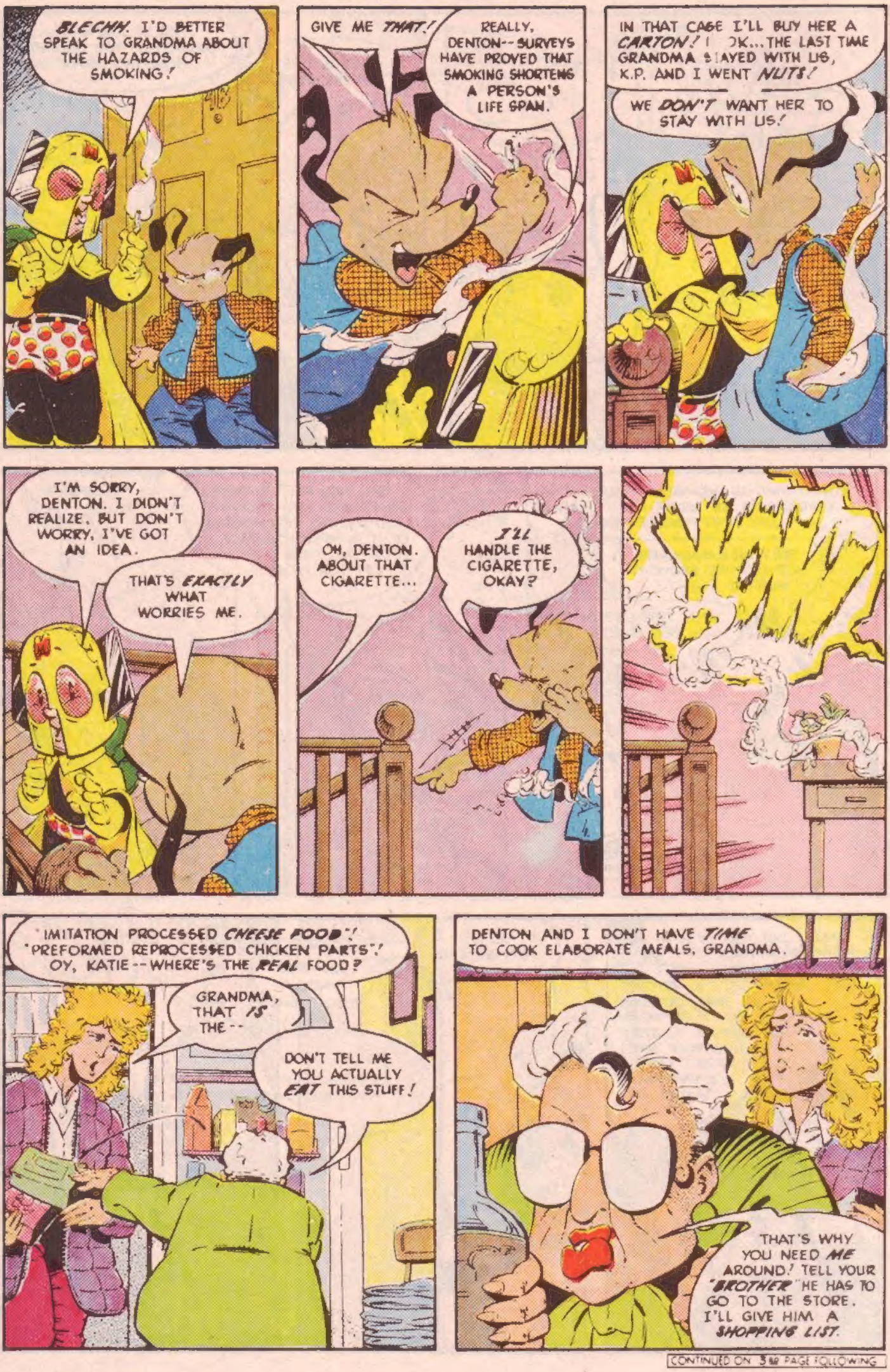
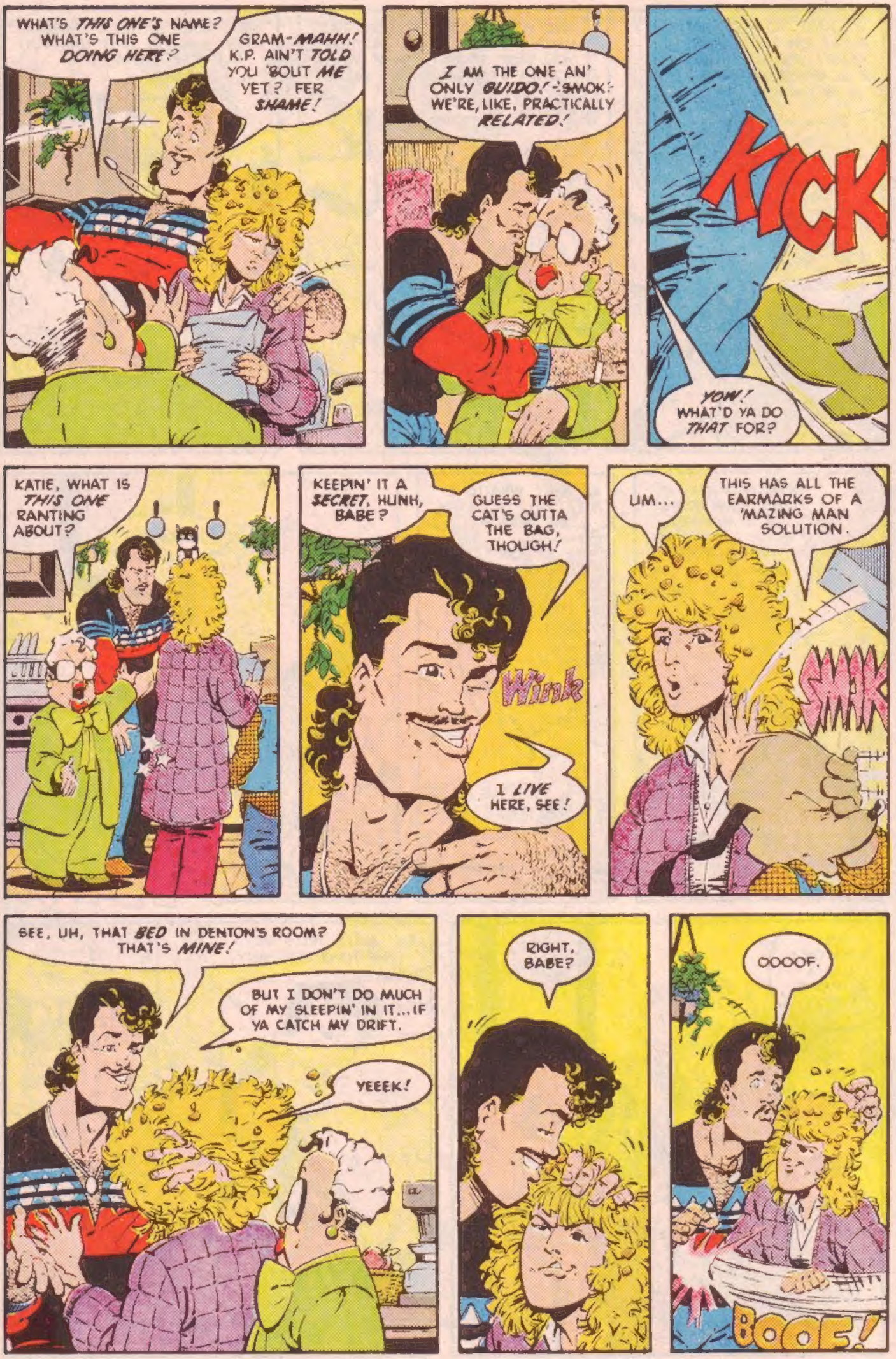
DON'T STAND THERE GAWKING LIKE AN IDIOT-- COME GIVE YOUR GRANDMA A KISS!
GRANDMA, MY NECK DOESN'T BEND THAT WAY!
SMOK SMOK SMOK
KATIE, KATIE, KATIE! YOU BEEN SICK! YOU'RE SKINNY! TSK! WHERE ARE THOSE CHUBBY CHE-E-EKS?
YOUCH!
ER...JUST IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, GRAM? YOU CAN STAY FOR DINNER, CAN YOU?
BETTER THAN THAT! I WAS JUST TELLING YOUR BROTHER--
GRANDMA'S DECIDED TO LIVE WITH US! BET YOU'RE AS THRILLED AS I AM, EH, K.P.?
YOU NEED SOMEBODY TO LOOK AFTER YOU, KATIE!
BUT...BUT...I'M 33 YEARS OLD!
NEVER TOO OLD FOR A GRANDMA!
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? I DON'T WANT HER STAYING HERE!
WAIT'LL MAZE SHOWS UP. ONE LOOK AT HIM AND--
HI!
YAAGH!

SHVUMFF
WHO IS THIS MESHUGGA?!
?
THIS IS SIGFRIED, GRANDMA -- WE CALL HIM 'MAZING MAN.
MAZE, THIS IS MY GRANDMA.
:KOFF: ANY GRANDMA OF YOURS IS A GRANDMA OF MINE, K.P.! PLEASED TO :KOFF KOFF: MEET YOU!
SEE? NICE MANNERS! -- HIS MOTHER BROUGHT HIM UP RIGHT!
YOU! YOU LIVE IN THE BUILDING?
AC-TUALLY, GRAM...
OH, NO, NO! I WAS ON PATROL AND THOUGHT I'D PICK UP SOMETHING DENTON WAS HOLDING FOR ME. THEN IT'S OFF FOR HOME!
Wink
"HOME"?
MAZE, DID YOU HAVE A SUDDEN ATTACK OF AMNESIA?! YOU LIVE HERE!
I KNOW THAT, DENTON. BUT IF GRANDMA WANTS TO STAY, THIS WAY SHE WON'T FEEL FUNNY ABOUT TAKING MY BED...
LET'S DISCUSS THIS...
...IN THE HALL!
FWUMP
HEH-HEH. EXCUSE US A MINUTE, WON'T YOU, LADIES?

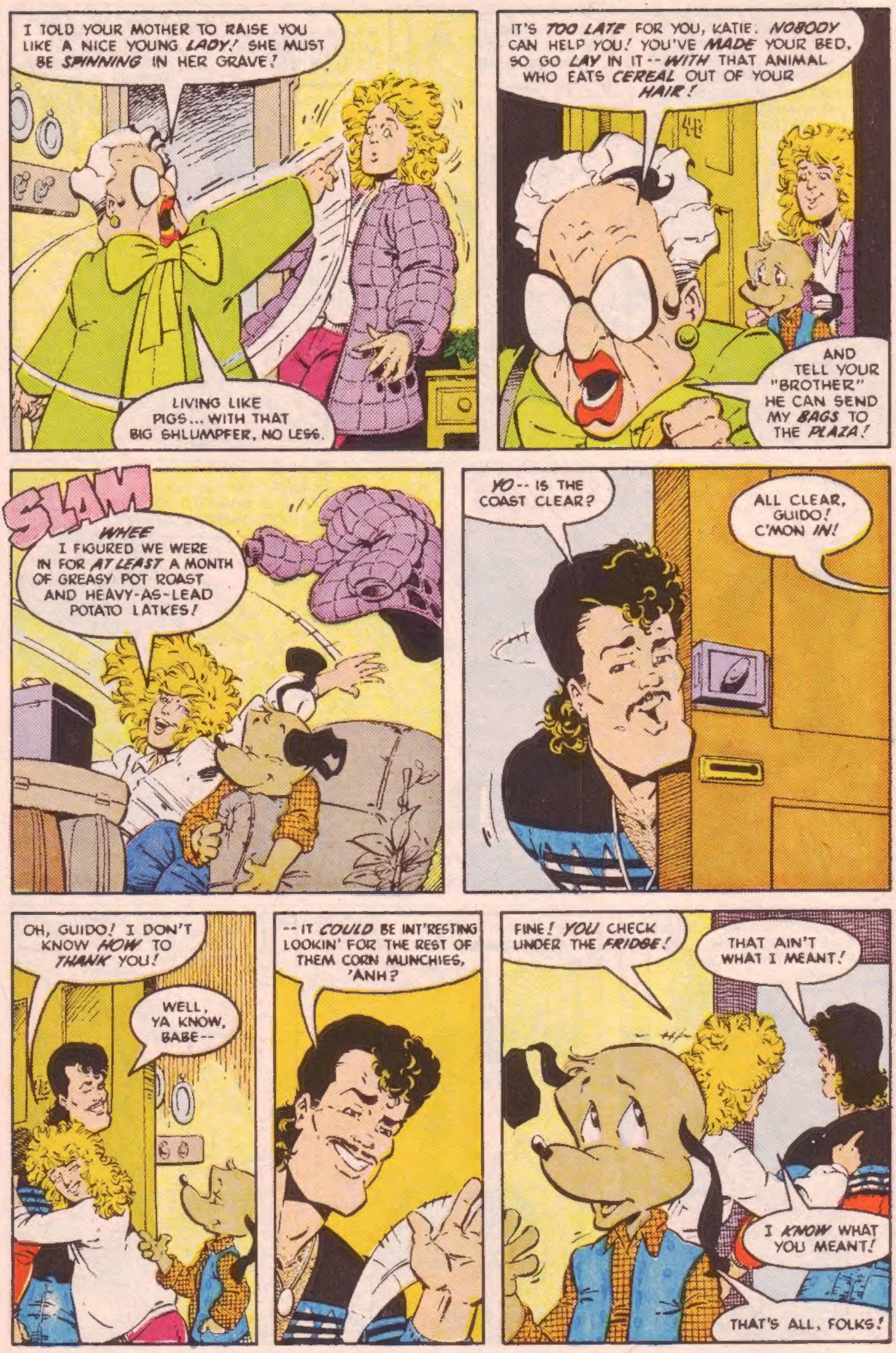

BLECHH. I'D BETTER SPEAK TO GRANDMA ABOUT THE HAZARDS OF SMOKING!
GIVE ME THAT!
REALLY, DENTON--SURVEYS HAVE PROVED THAT SMOKING SHORTENS A PERSON'S LIFE SPAN.
IN THAT CASE I'LL BUY HER A CARTON! OK... THE LAST TIME GRANDMA STAYED WITH US, K.P. AND I WENT NUTS!
WE DON'T WANT HER TO STAY WITH US!
I'M SORRY, DENTON. I DIDN'T REALIZE. BUT DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WORRIES ME.
OH, DENTON. ABOUT THAT CIGARETTE...
I'LL HANDLE THE CIGARETTE, OKAY?
WOW
"IMITATION PROCESSED CHEESE FOOD"! "PREFORMED REPROCESSED CHICKEN PARTS"! OY, KATIE--WHERE'S THE REAL FOOD?
GRANDMA, THAT IS THE--
DON'T TELL ME YOU ACTUALLY EAT THIS STUFF!
DENTON AND I DON'T HAVE TIME TO COOK ELABORATE MEALS, GRANDMA.
THAT'S WHY YOU NEED ME AROUND! TELL YOUR "BROTHER" HE HAS TO GO TO THE STORE. I'LL GIVE HIM A SHOPPING LIST.

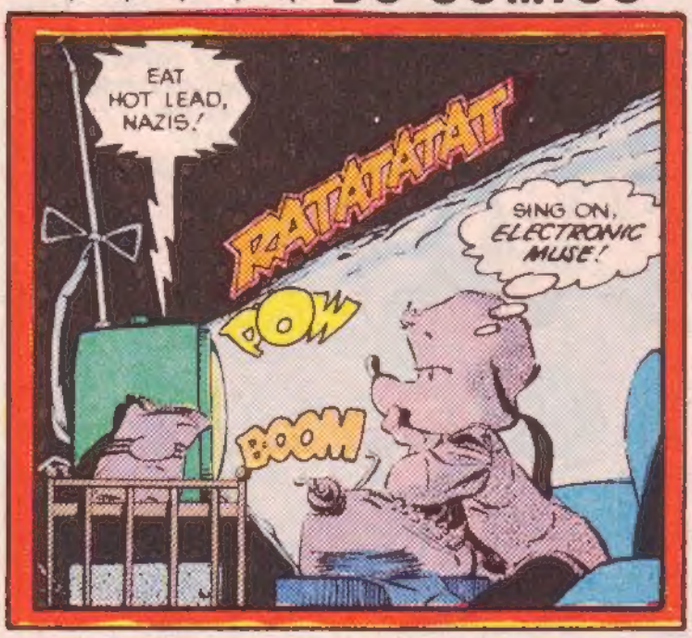
CONTINUED ON 58 PAGE FOLLOWING

WE HAVE TO PUT SOME MEAT ON THOSE BONES, KATIE! YOU LOOK LIKE A SCARECROW WITH A PERMANENT!
AND YOUR BROTHER LOOKS LIKE... HMPH! I TOLD YOUR MOTHER-- YOU GOT TO EAT RIGHT WHEN YOU'RE PREGNANT, BUT WOULD SHE LISTEN? HA!
ARH! LOOK AT THESE CABINETS! WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CLEANED THEM OUT-- 1977?
OPEN PACKAGES OF FOOD DRAW BUGS LIKE A MAGNET, KATIE! THROW THEM AWAY!
AH-HAH! WHAT'D I TELL YOU? A FILTHY, BIG ROACH!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE-- KILL IT BEFORE IT BREEDS!
ARGHHH!
SPAK!
YOU COULDN'T USE A SLIPPER, KATIE?
EY! MAZE TELLS ME WE HAVE COMPANY!
WHO--?

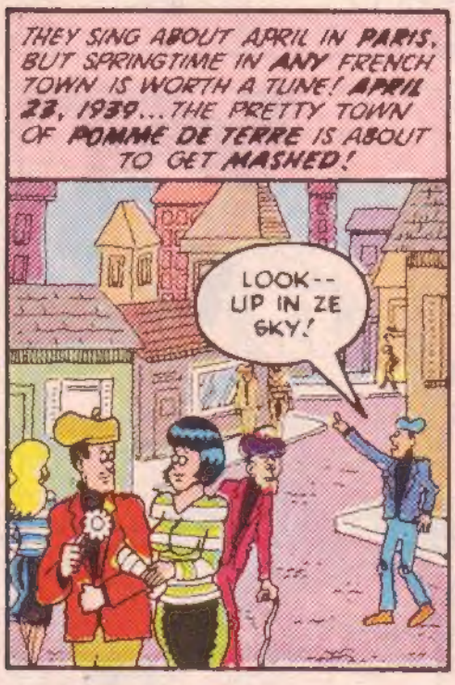

WHAT'S THIS ONE'S NAME? WHAT'S THIS ONE DOING HERE?
GRAM-MAHH! K.P. AIN'T TOLD YOU 'BOUT ME YET? FER SHAME!
I AM THE ONE AN' ONLY GUIDO! -SMOK- WE'RE, LIKE, PRACTICALLY RELATED!
KICK
YOW! WHAT'D YA DO THAT FOR?
KATIE, WHAT IS THIS ONE RANTING ABOUT?
KEEPIN' IT A SECRET, HUNH, BABE?
GUESS THE CAT'S OUTTA THE BAG, THOUGH!
Wink
I LIVE HERE, SEE!
UM...
THIS HAS ALL THE EARMARKS OF A 'MAZING MAN SOLUTION.
SMAK
SEE, UH, THAT BED IN DENTON'S ROOM? THAT'S MINE!
BUT I DON'T DO MUCH OF MY SLEEPIN' IN IT... IF YA CATCH MY DRIFT.
YEEEK!
RIGHT, BABE?
OOOOF.
BOOF!

HOW SHALL I PUT THIS? GRANDMA--GUIDO AND I ARE...UM ROMANTICALLY *INVOLVED.*
HMMM. WHAT'S THIS STUFF IN YER HAIR?
MMMM, CORN MUNCHIES! LITTLE STALE, BUT I LOVE 'EM!
HOW'S ABOUT WE, LIKE, SLIP INTUH THE BEDROOM AND SEE IF THEY'RE ANYPLACE ELSE ON YER LIKE, CUTE LITTLE BODY?
CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH MUNCH CRUNCH
GUIDO!
BOOF
YOU'RE *DISGUSTING!* SAYING FILTH LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF AN OLD WOMAN! YOU WANT I SHOULD GO INTO *CARDIAC ARREST?!*
YOWW!
KICK
UHH, GUIDO, MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO TAKE A *WALK* WHILE WE STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT HERE...?
GOOD IDEA.
I'LL GO GET ON SOME *SHIN GUARDS*, TOO.
crunch
crunch!
ARE WE LIVING IN A *JUNGLE* HERE??!
SLAMM


I TOLD YOUR MOTHER TO RAISE YOU LIKE A NICE YOUNG LADY! SHE MUST BE SPINNING IN HER GRAVE!
LIVING LIKE PIGS... WITH THAT BIG SHLUMPFER, NO LESS.
IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU, KATIE. NOBODY CAN HELP YOU! YOU'VE MADE YOUR BED, SO GO LAY IN IT -- WITH THAT ANIMAL WHO EATS CEREAL OUT OF YOUR HAIR!
AND TELL YOUR "BROTHER" HE CAN SEND MY BAGS TO THE PLAZA!
SLAM
WHEE
I FIGURED WE WERE IN FOR AT LEAST A MONTH OF GREASY POT ROAST AND HEAVY-AS-LEAD POTATO LATKES!
YO -- IS THE COAST CLEAR?
ALL CLEAR, GUIDO! C'MON IN!
OH, GUIDO! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU!
WELL, YA KNOW, BABE --
-- IT COULD BE INT'RESTING LOOKIN' FOR THE REST OF THEM CORN MUNCHIES, 'ANH?
FINE! YOU CHECK UNDER THE FRIDGE!
THAT AIN'T WHAT I MEANT!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEANT!
THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!


EAT HOT LEAD, NAZIS!
RAT-A-TAT-A-TAT
SING ON, ELECTRONIC MUSE!
POW
BOOM

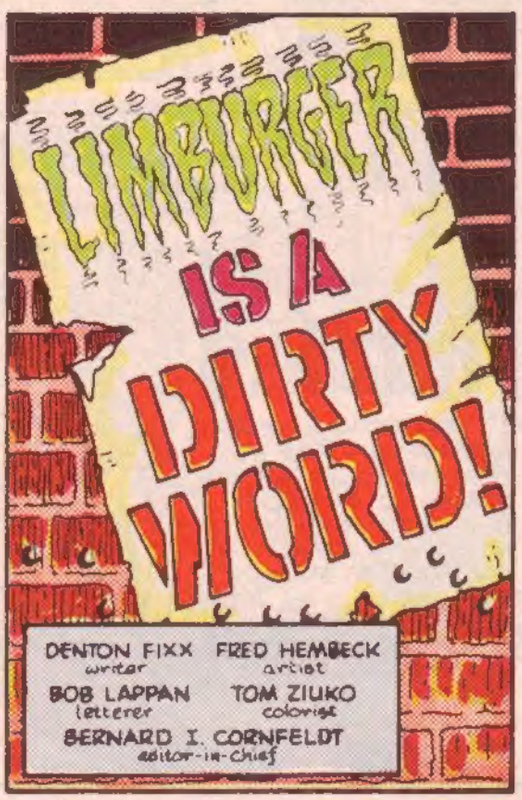
The VERY FUN ADVENTURES of ZOOT SPUTNIK and his FRIENDS!!!


THEY SING ABOUT APRIL IN PARIS, BUT SPRINGTIME IN ANY FRENCH TOWN IS WORTH A TUNE! APRIL 23, 1939... THE PRETTY TOWN OF POMME DE TERRE IS ABOUT TO GET MASHED!
LOOK-- UP IN ZE SKY!

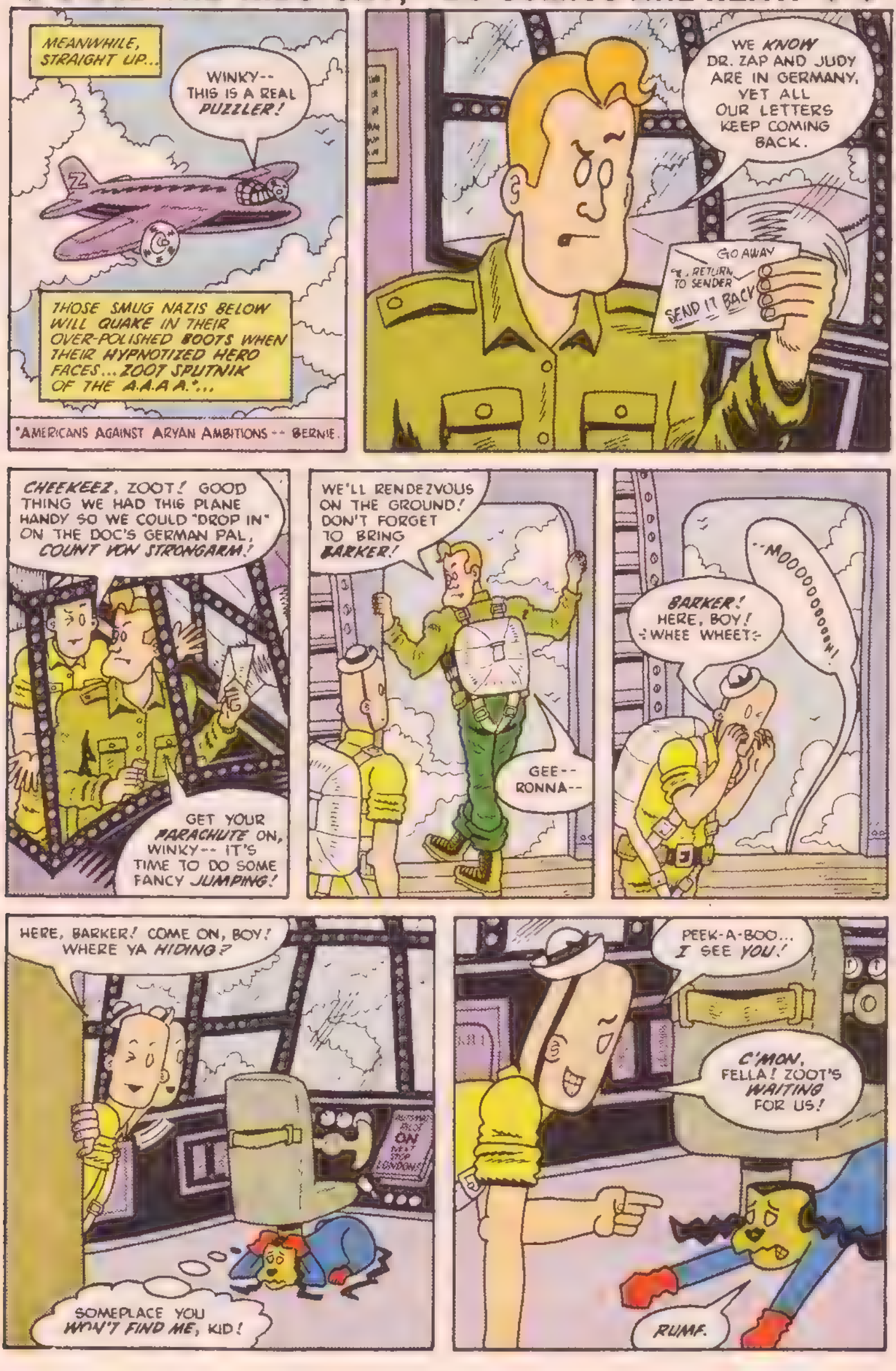
SCREEEEEEE
CAN IT BE ZE METEOR?

BAROOOOM
SACRE BLEU! ZE CITY HALL HAS GONE PFOOF!

HA-HA-HA! FLEE, LITTLE MICE! FLEE SGT. SHVASTIKA -- DER NEW CHAMPION UFF DER T'OUSAND-YEAR REICH!
CALL ZE GENDARMES!
CALL ZE ARMY!
LET ZE GENDARMES CALL ZE ARMY! AIEEE!
G-2475


LIMBURGER IS A DIRTY WORD!
DENTON FIXX writer
FRED HEMBECK artist
BOB LAPPAN letterer
TOM ZIUKO colorist
BERNARD I. CORNFELDT editor-in-chief

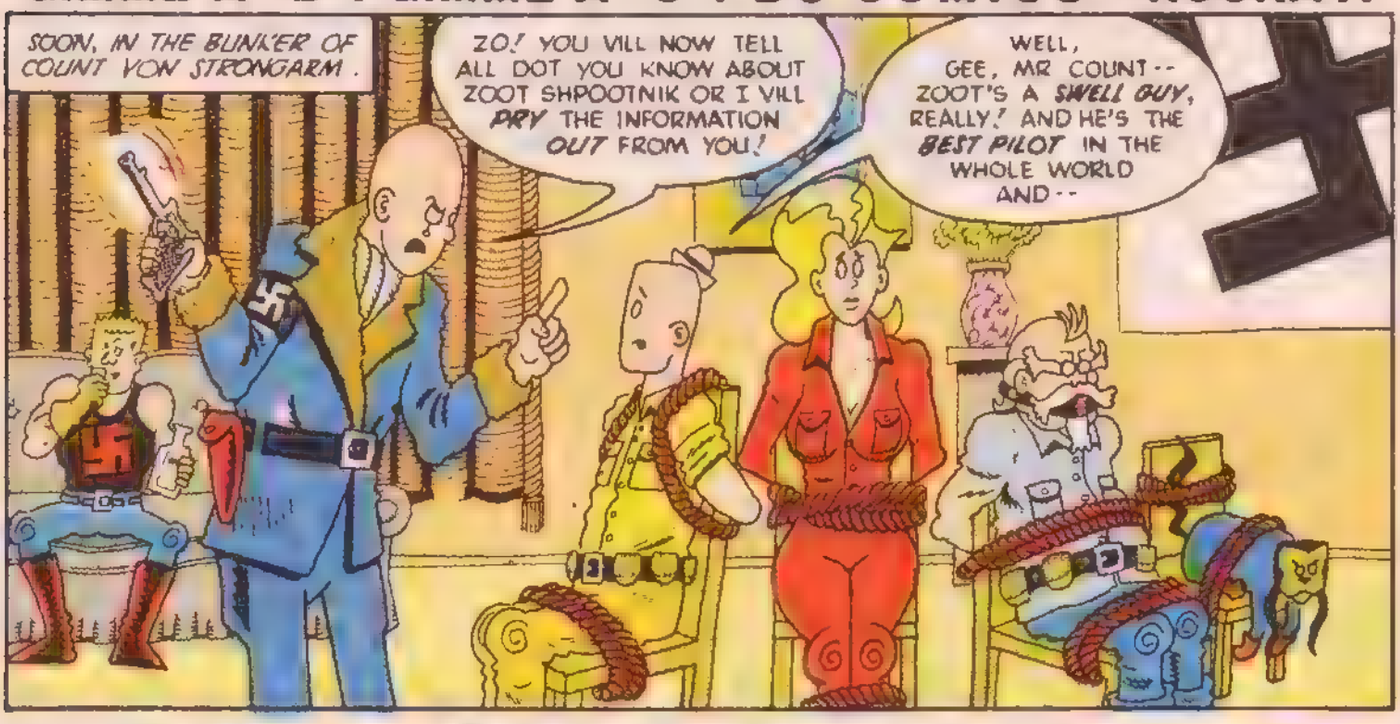
ACHTUNG, YOU SOFT-HEARTED DEMOCRATIC FLEAS! BRING ME YOUR GREATEST FIGHTER. SO I CAN KNEAD HIM INTO SO MUCH FRENCH PASTRY!
CHUST AS I TOUGHT! NUTTING LEFT TO DO BUT TEAR DIS TOWN TO PIECES UND DEN BE ON MEIN VAY!
SPOINGG
AND SOON, BEHIND GERMAN LINES...
MEIN FUEHRER! <ALL THE SCOFFERS ARE SILENT! SGT. SWASTIKA HAS SHUSHED THEM!>
<BUT THIS IS INCONCEIVABLE. COINT VON STRONGARM! SWASTIKA IS A 44-KILO* WEAKLING!>
<CORRECTION: HE WAS A RUNT! BUT NOW HE IS THE MIGHTIEST OF MORTALS, THANKS TO THE MOST UP-TO-DATE SCIENTIFIC METHODS OF HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION AND-->
* 98-lb, approx -- BERNIE
<--THE ASSISTANCE OF DR. SILO K. ZAP!>
SLICK WOODEN DEUTSCHE MARKS, YOU SWINE!

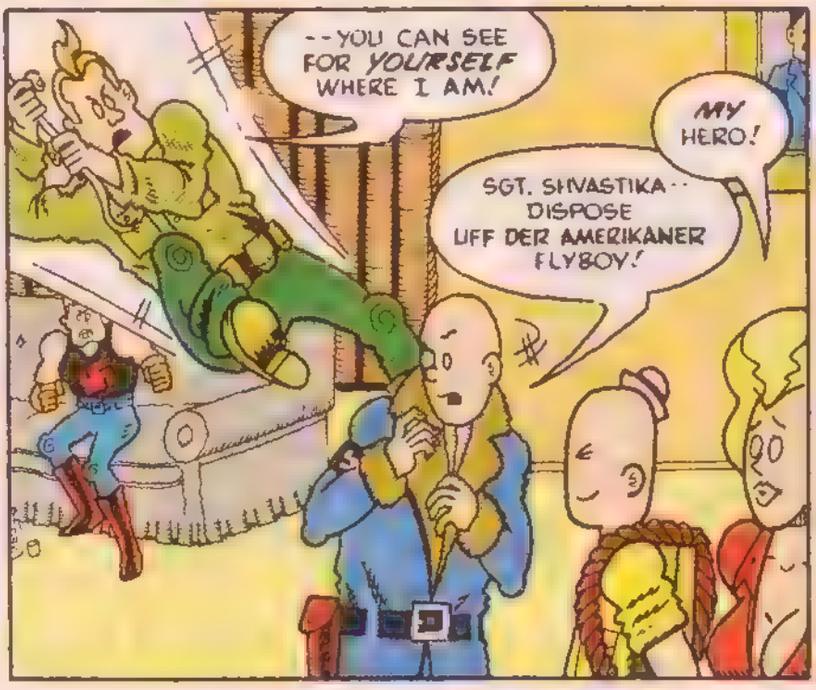

MEANWHILE, STRAIGHT UP...
WINKY-- THIS IS A REAL PUZZLER!
THOSE SMUG NAZIS BELOW WILL QUAKE IN THEIR OVER-POLISHED BOOTS WHEN THEIR HYPNOTIZED HERO FACES... ZOOT SPUTNIK OF THE A.A.A.A.*...
*AMERICANS AGAINST ARYAN AMBITIONS -- BERNIE.
WE KNOW DR. ZAP AND JUDY ARE IN GERMANY, YET ALL OUR LETTERS KEEP COMING BACK.
GO AWAY
RETURN TO SENDER
SEND IT BACK
CHEEKEEZ, ZOOT! GOOD THING WE HAD THIS PLANE HANDY SO WE COULD "DROP IN" ON THE DOC'S GERMAN PAL, COUNT VON STRONGARM!
GET YOUR PARACHUTE ON, WINKY-- IT'S TIME TO DO SOME FANCY JUMPING!
WE'LL RENDEZVOUS ON THE GROUND! DON'T FORGET TO BRING BARKER!
GEE-- RONNA--
BARKER! HERE, BOY! ÷WHEE WHEET÷
..MOOOOOOOOH!
HERE, BARKER! COME ON, BOY! WHERE YA HIDING?
SOMEPLACE YOU WON'T FIND ME, KID!
PEEK-A-BOO... I SEE YOU!
C'MON, FELLA! ZOOT'S WAITING FOR US!
RUMF.

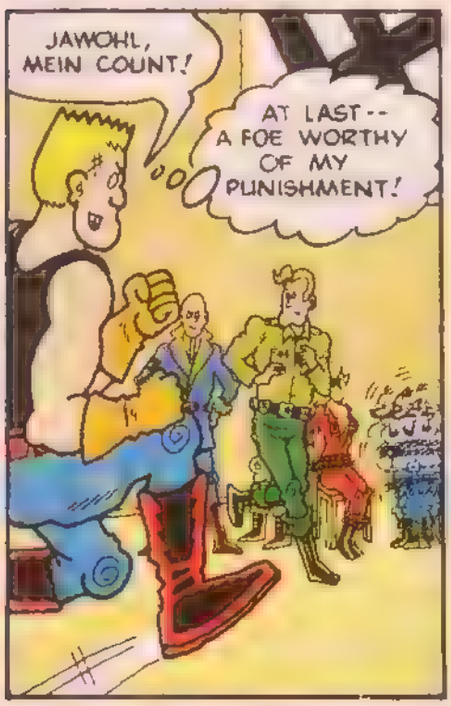
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BOY? WE'VE DONE THIS HUNDREDS OF TIMES!
WE HAVE?
YOU WERE THE STAR OF THE CANINE JUMPING SCHOOL IN A.A.A.A. TRAINING!
I WAS?
YOIKS AND AWAY!
MAMA.
BARKER, WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY ACTING LIKE A SCARED PUPPY?
SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON HERE! I'D SWEAR I'VE NEVER DONE THIS IN MY LIFE...
KEEP AN EYE PEELED FOR ZOOT, BARKER!
IN FACT, WEREN'T WE IN A SPACESHIP JUST YESTERDAY?
I SURE HOPE THAT'S ZOOT DRIVING THAT CAR...
ULP
Uch au lieber!

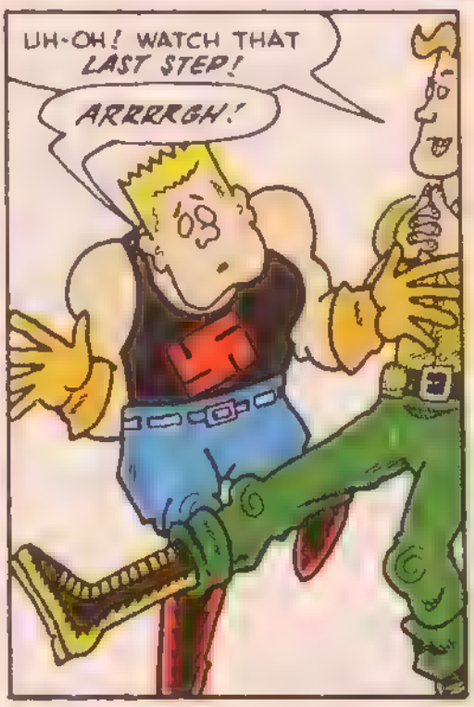
'RAUS! 'RAUS MIT YOU -- YOU FILT'Y SHPIES!
CHEEKEEZ, BARKER -- WE'RE IN FOR IT NOW!
RUMF
HOLD ON! I KNOW YOU! YOU ARE DER ADOPTED ZUN UFF DER VERDAMMTER ZOOT SHPOOTNIK UFF DER A.A.A.A.! VEENKY, EH?
THAT'S PRONOUNCED WINKY, SIR!
ACH! VEENKY OR VEENKY -- WHO CARES HOW IT'S BRONOUNCED?!
NOW, YOU VILL MARCH -- DOUBLE-TIME -- TO MY HEADKVARTERS! SCHNELLER! SCHNELLER!
CHEEKEEZ! WHERE'S ZOOT WHEN WE NEED HIM?
RIGHT HERE, LITTLE PAL...
...AND I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
HE IS A POWERFUL MAN, THIS ZOOT SPLITNIK! A MAN'S MAN...
...WHO WOULD NEVER ABANDON HIS FRIENDS, NO MATTER WHAT THE DANGER --!
HMMM. SURE WISH I'D WORN MY JOGGING SHOES!
AND I COULD SURE USE A SWEATBAND!
AND A QUICK SHOWER...

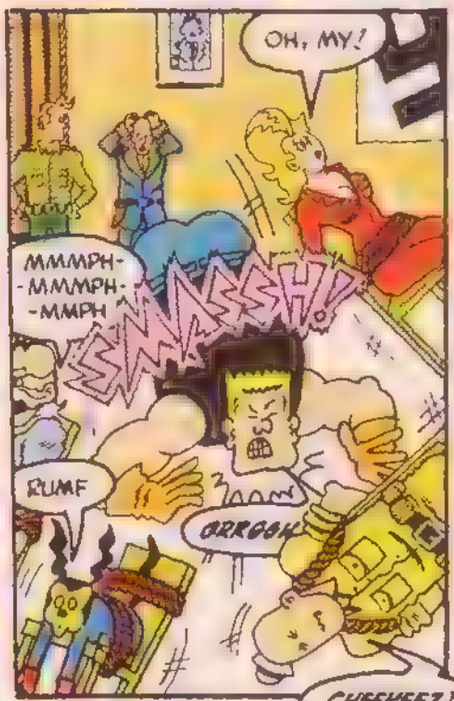
# GIMME A "B"! GIMME A "C"! BC COMICS—HOORAY!

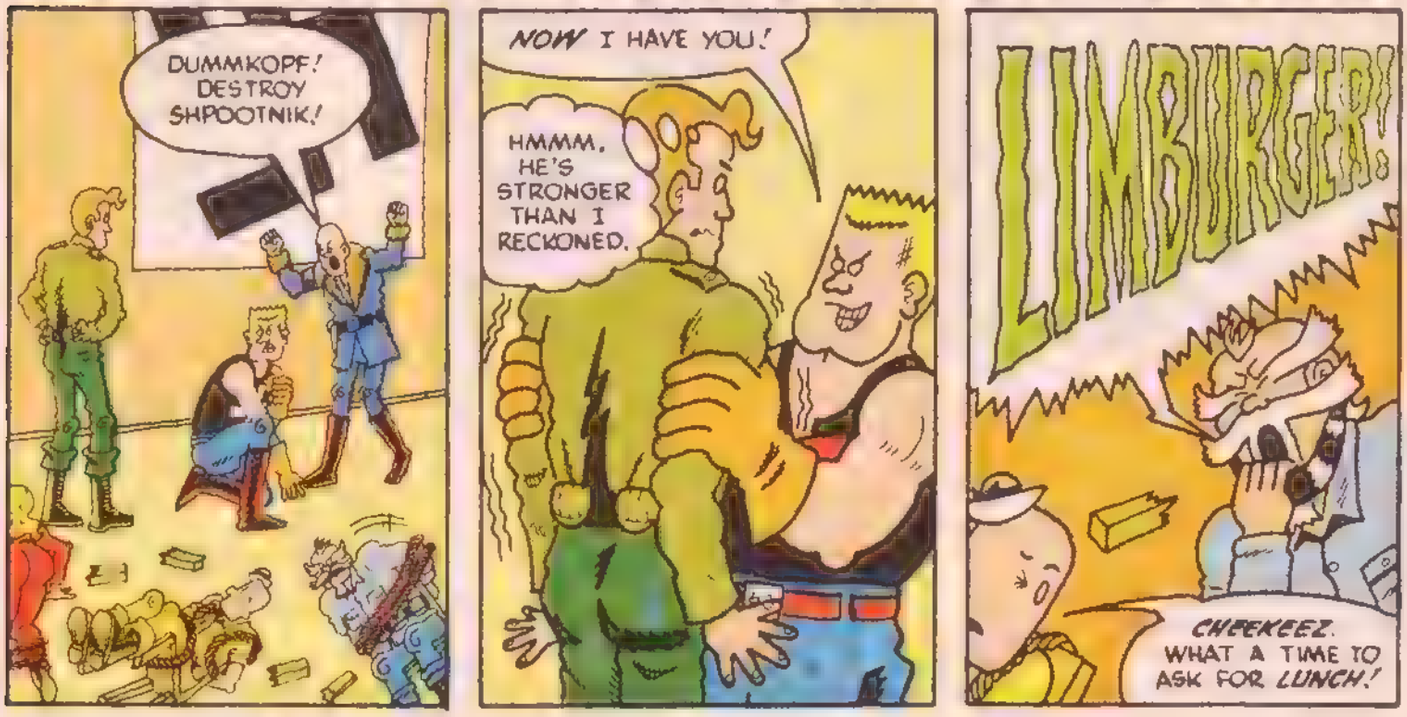

SOON, IN THE BUNKER OF COUNT VON STRONGARM.
ZO! YOU VILL NOW TELL ALL DOT YOU KNOW ABOUT ZOOT SHPOOTNIK OR I VILL PRY THE INFORMATION OUT FROM YOU!
WELL, GEE, MR COUNT-- ZOOT'S A SWELL GUY, REALLY! AND HE'S THE BEST PILOT IN THE WHOLE WORLD AND--



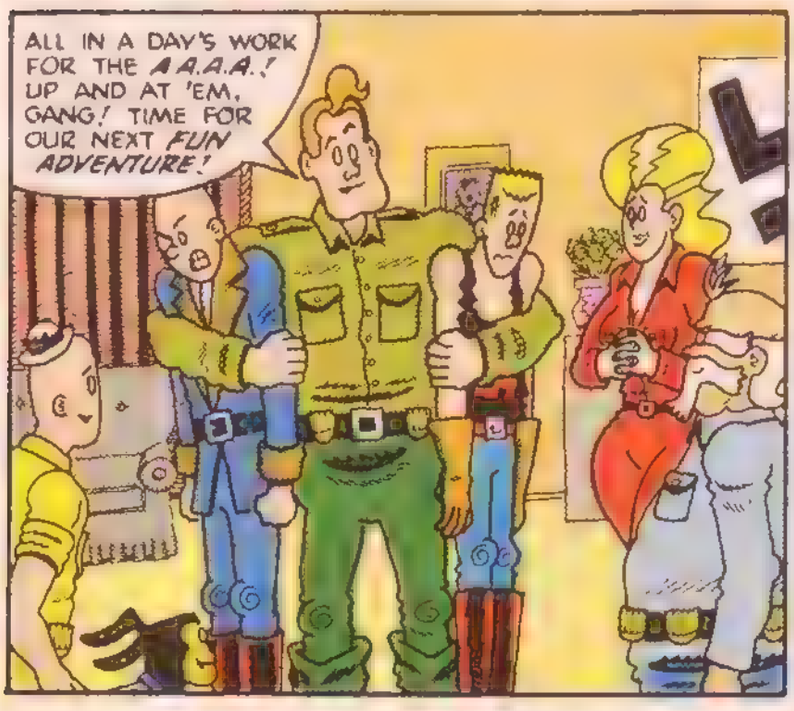



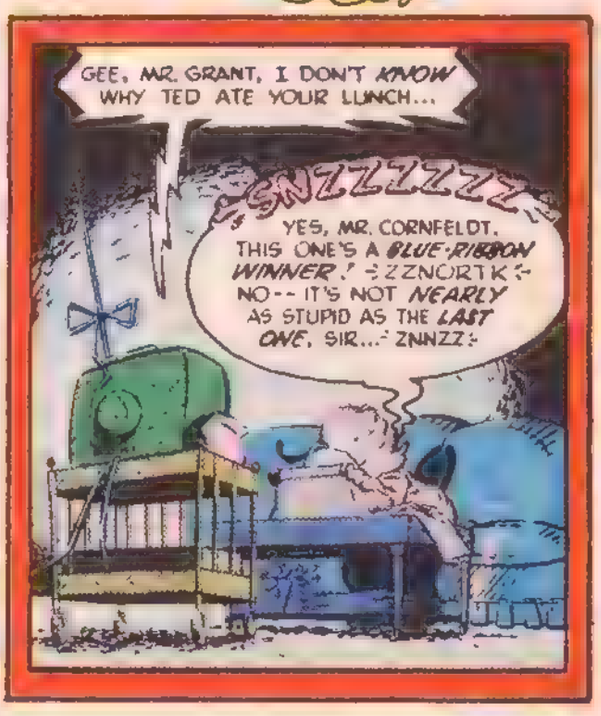



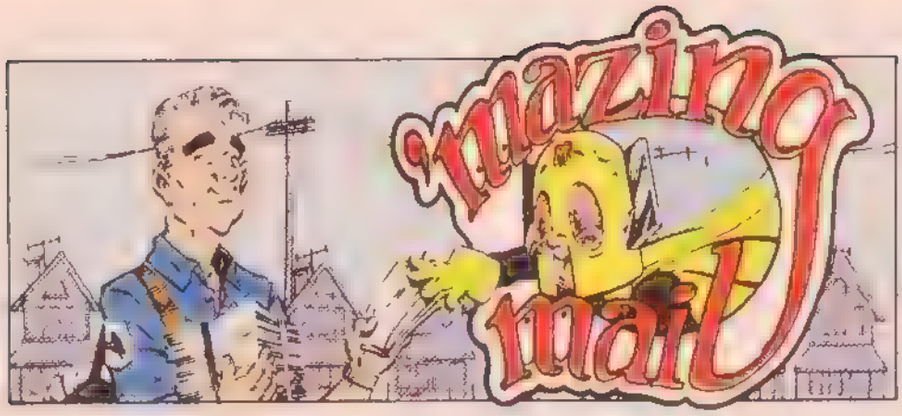




DUMMKOPF! DESTROY SHPOOTNIK!
NOW I HAVE YOU!
HMMM. HE'S STRONGER THAN I RECKONED.
LIMBURGER!
CHEEKEEZ. WHAT A TIME TO ASK FOR LUNCH!

L-LIMBURGER--?
BRILLIANT. ZAP A KEY WORD TO BRING HIM OUT OF HYPNOSIS!
UNNGH!
CHEEKEEZ. ZOOT! YOU DID IT!
MY HERO!
BOOOMF!


ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR THE A.A.A.A.! UP AND AT 'EM, GANG! TIME FOR OUR NEXT FUN ADVENTURE!


GEE, MR. GRANT, I DON'T KNOW WHY TED ATE YOUR LUNCH...
SNZZZZZZ
YES, MR. CORNFELDT. THIS ONE'S A BLUE-RIBBON WINNER! ÷ZZNORTK÷ NO-- IT'S NOT NEARLY AS STUPID AS THE LAST ONE, SIR...÷ ZNNZZ÷

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**Before we get this gull-darn contraption rattling, I'd like to thank the swell folks at Westfield Comics for featuring Maze on THE WESTFIELD NEWSLETTER for January 1986 and for saying all those nice and very true things about our series. Now, then...**

Dear 'Mazing Ones,

Have you ever seen the movie (or play) *Harvey*? It's about a man called Elwood P. Dowd who thinks he has a giant invisible rabbit named Harvey as his companion. Well, he *thinks* Harvey is real ... Um, according to the movie, Harvey is real or, I mean, might be real —or maybe as real as we believe him to be or... Well, it was that kind of movie, if you get my drift.

Anyway. It so happened that right after seeing *Harvey* (the movie, not the giant invisible rabbit, wise guy!), I picked up my copy of MM #4 to read. And while Maze doesn't believe in giant invisible rabbits (does he?), I see a great similarity between him and ol' Elwood. They are both mild, inoffensive, polite, and nutty as a fruitcake—yet they have spirits of iron, in their own peculiar ways. Also, though ridiculed by others, they instill great love and trust in many others and bring a little hope and happiness into this often grim world of ours. In fact, a line spoken by Elwood (as portrayed by Jimmy Stewart) in the movie sums things up nicely. "In this world, you must be oh-so-smart or oh-so-pleasant. I recommend pleasant." Few of us could ever really be like Maze or Elwood, but I suspect that many of us wish we could, if only for a short time—sort of like a mental vacation.

One thing confused me in the movie, though: What was the Maytag repairman doing working in a mental institution? And come to think of it, why was his name Marvin Wilson Honey? (Well, I mean, that's the way he introduced himself to women: "Hi, baby. My name is Marvin Wilson Honey.") Of course, these little nuances of life often escape me. Why, just the other day I was discussing this very topic with my friend Bill, who is a giant invisible beaver with a buck tooth, and he said... Oh, pardon me. Someone's at the door ... Well, believe it or not, it's the Maytag repairman! But I don't own a washer or a dryer or ... Oh, he's wearing a white suit ... and carrying a huge net ... Oh, no, I've got to get away! I... AARRRGGGHHHHHHH!!!"

Yours aarrrggghhhhhhhly,
"T.M. Maple"
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, ONT M9L2R9
Canada

*****

Dear Alan,

I received issue 4 of 'MAZING MAN yesterday, and it was done very well! I think the best part of the book is the dialogue. And I loved the way Denton and Guido argued. And that Guido, I just don't see how everyone puts up with him. I think KP is right, he is brain dead, and he's been that way ever since birth! Guido has that "Fonz" look, with his leather jacket. He tries to be cool, and he tries too hard; in my book he's far from cool, more like *snob*! Now that he lost his car, he'll probably get a motorcycle. Maze is an unusual character, he doesn't have any *real* super powers, that's what's different. Even though he doesn't have any real super powers (for all I know he just hasn't had any need for them, yet) he still gets the job done. I was glad he found Guido's car, but I wanted to see more on *how* he found it. I wouldn't think DC would do this type of comic. It is different, and I like that, something new and never done before.

Now for a big question, will there be an annual? It might be too soon now, but don't you think an annual would be a good idea?

I like 'MAZING MAN's style, and I think it will be around for awhile. Unfortunately, I missed issues 1, 2, and 3, but I think I know what to expect. And one more thing: I'd like to see 'Mazing Man confront some of the criminals in the DC universe, or you could even make up a few. Well, I hope I've been of some help. Until next issue...

Christopher Hunter
3 Royal Drive, Apt. 114
Piscataway, NJ 08854

**I hate to keep on harping on this, so let's make this the last time I do my two-step round the hall. Maze will never, ever encounter any of the villains of the DC Universe because Maze doesn't inhabit the DC Universe. 'MAZING MAN is a comic put out by DC Comics Inc., but unlike many other DC Comics, it presents a parody of our real world, rather than a fantastic alternative world that only bears some resemblance to the place we stand on line for buses in. In the DC Universe, there are impossibly endowed, downright alien figures protecting every major U.S. city. In the real world, we the people have to cope with our problems ourselves. This is not a put-down of superhero comics; I edit two handfuls of superhero comics and feel pretty lucky to do so. I'm just saying that 'MAZING MAN is not a super-hero comic. S.H. Hunch III has read enough super-hero comics to get the notion that he can put on a flamboyant costume and become a living poem, as it were, in his prosaic world. He has no powers, however, beyond a strong intuitive gift and a bright, healthy, sensitive spirit.**

**I'd love to start thinking about an Annual for 'MAZING MAN, Christopher, but let's finish twelve regular issues first, okay?**

*****

Dear Sirs,

Regarding 'MAZING MAN #3. Someday they're going to put you in a nice room with soft walls where you can play with your toes and smile all day.

Keep up the great work. And send someone around to persuade Jeff Mitchell to buy your neat book. He doesn't buy it and it's so *embarrassing*.

Have a better than ordinary day.

Michael Pickens
P.O. Box 552
61 Leonard Avenue
Centerburg, OH 43011

*****

Dear Editor,

After considering the plot, character motivations, art rendering, and other technical workings of the first three issues of your new publication, I have come to one conclusion about 'MAZING MAN.

AHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH

I hope that my extremely intelligent remarks and my sparkling ideas above will help 'MAZING MAN to continue as an extremely entertaining comic book.

Keith Crouse
104 Country Lane
Timonium, MD 21093

P.S. Speaking more directly, you've got the only comic that's ever been genuinely funny, with great art and human characters in it. Keep it up, guys.

*****

Dear Stephen and Bob,

Well, even though little Helenita wasn't in the limelight this issue (#3), I liked it anyway.

Gina Meskil
RR 4 Box 50 A
Greenville, IL 62246

*****

YOU ARE INVITED
TO A
VERY POSH
LETTER

PUBLISHERS
READING HOUSE
WINNERS REQUIRED

I LA

CONTINUED ON 34 PAGE FOLLOWING

Well, you've done it again—three issues, three winners. I want to talk about the people who made 'MAZING MAN what it is today.

*Stephen DeStefano:* What a 'mazing artist, putting so many details in one square, putting so many squares in one page, putting so many beautiful pages in one comic, it's just fantastic! (By the way, how long does it take Stephen to finish drawing an issue?)

*Bob Lappan:* I just can't get enough of

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hong | Bing | smek |
| | Bong | |
| | | munch |
| k-chmk | Nab | munch |
| | | munch |
| k-splak | fwup | |
| | Jingle | smok |
| | Jingle | |

*Karl Kesel:* His light touch with inking is so enhancing.

*Nansi Hoolahan:* Colorists really have a big job to do. Great work.

*Bob Rozakis:* He puts sooooooooooo much into every page, little jokes, quips, puns, you just wouldn't believe how much fun I have reading *every* word. I just can't describe how good it is. Writing it helps me express it a little.

Well, I'm glad Mrs. Sax and the other ladies like MM now, and I'll see you next month.

Andy Sved
455 N. Kilkea Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90048

P.S. Did I forget something? Oh, yeah, even Alan Gold does a good job.

**Stephen draws a page a day, Andy. He's a bit slower than most pencillers, but I think the results are worth it. (Since he's co-creator of this series, Stephen spends a lot of time hassling his old buddy Bob R. and changing the plot as the spirit moves him. Plus he has to take lots of time out to create eleventy-seven new super-hero characters every week, complete with costumes and life histories.)**

• • • • •

Dear Mr. Gold,

First, good news! The assistant at the local comic shop is pushing your book. Of course, he's also pushing that one about the Tough Milkman, and he hasn't even read it. [*Tell him to do so!—Alan*]

But I think I've got the book figured out. It isn't a cross between *I Love Lucy* and *Fire sign Theatre* as previously stated. It's a mixture of *Sugar & Spike*, *Young & the Rest less*, and Woodsy Owl.

On the other hand, maybe I still don't understand it.

John Henry Sain
2251 Kings Highway
Medford, OR 97501

• • • • •

Dear Mr. Gold et al.,

Although the Christmas season is a very busy time for us, I wanted to write as soon as possible and thank you for 'MAZING MAN.

In the last few years DC has produced the best new comics since the Denny O'Neil and Neal Adams team left the field. I was thrilled with the return of Firestorm to his own title. Then you topped that with Mike W. Barr's BATMAN AND THE OUTSIDERS and soon they were coming right and left with DC CHALLENGE, CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS, and BLUE DEVIL (a truly great comic). But now we have a topper to beat them all in 'MAZING MAN. What a rare jewel of a comic! I really love it and can't wait for each issue to arrive. I haven't been this excited about a new series since the first episode of *Hill Street Blues*. At that time we didn't have Cable TV, and the only station carrying *Hill Street Blues* was over 100 miles away, and we seldom could get a decent picture. In fact, about half the time, it would snow over or fade completely and I would be watching a white screen and listening to follow the story. Still, the show was so good that I didn't switch to a more "seeable" station, as I would have otherwise. Well, I feel the same about 'MAZING MAN and I hope you will give it every opportunity to make its niche in the market (as they did with *Hill Street Blues*). We are doing our part here, as I recommend it to everyone who walks in the door—even the people who are only asking directions! So far we have sold out our original plus three reorders of #1 and need to order more and more of every issue.

I'm still at a loss to describe the book when people ask me what it's like. It's truly different from any other comic on the market and as Denton says right at the very beginning of issue #1, "appearances are deceiving." This book appears to be a "kid's" book, but that is a misconception. This book works on so many levels and depths that it is truly something for all ages from 8 to 80. (But I think it's probably best appreciated by those of us over 30 or even over 40!) I had the same trouble telling people about *Hill Street Blues*, and the only way to truly appreciate either is to try it. Very few who have tried the first issue have failed to continue with the series so we are building a good following.

If there is a problem with the book anywhere (and I believe there are no problems *anywhere*), it would be the title. The title and covers do not represent the true strength and depth of the stories. (But there probably isn't any way to take all of that and condense it so it would be all on the cover in any case.) Still, the only reason some have yet to try the book is because they can't get past the "kid's" comic cover. But don't worry, I'll keep after them until we make 'MAZING MAN the rookie of the year! (I had the same resistance about ATARI FORCE, but all those I could get to try it became loyal fans, and we were all sad when it ended after 20 issues. Thanks for it, too.)

Well, almost time to end. Thanks again for everything and keep up the good work. We really appreciate it, even if we can't write as often as we would like.

John Kranz
2503 Highway 32
Chico, CA 95926

• • • • •

**Thanks, too, to everyone else who wrote:**

| | |
|---|---|
| The Long Stranger | Todd Goodman |
| Brian Lindsey | Saint-Germain |
| Charles D. Brown | John Q. Adams III |
| Dan Carson | David Chalutsan, Jr. |
| Nage Clapton | Ernest Pelletier, Jr. |
| Michael Payne | Dale Martin |
| John W. Hangsleben | Charles David Haskell |

Chuck Gillman (although I find your ideas interesting, Chuck, I'm not sure we need a bunch of separate imprints to keep mainstream—DC Universe—titles separate from oddball—non-super hero—titles; at least, I hope it's not necessary. With a little pep talk from time to time, we should be able to make it clear that not everything published with a DC bullet on its cover is part of our interconnected Universe of super heroes. Hm?)

Tarn C. Stephanos (huh?)

Brad Dancer (sorry, Brad, but I can't oblige; I like the shorter stories, at least occasionally, in 'MAZING MAN. This is a humor comic, not an adventure comic, and a lot of engaging humorous situations just aren't worth more than seven or eight pages. All the separate stories add up to The World of 'Mazing Man, though; so there is continuity in this book.)

If I've omitted anyone, it was an oversight I regret.

NEXT ISSUE: Eddie gets a promotion but nothing comes easy in this neighborhood. And Maze gets a chance to be truly heroic! And if that isn't enough for you, if you are among the first five million to line up thirty days from now wherever fine comics are sold, you'll get yet another installment of "The Very Fun Adventures of ZOOT SPUTNIK and His Friends," by Denton Fox and Fred Hembeck. Remember, don't say, "Gimme a comic!" Say, "'MAZING MAN, please!" Accept no substitutions, and tell 'em Alan sent you.

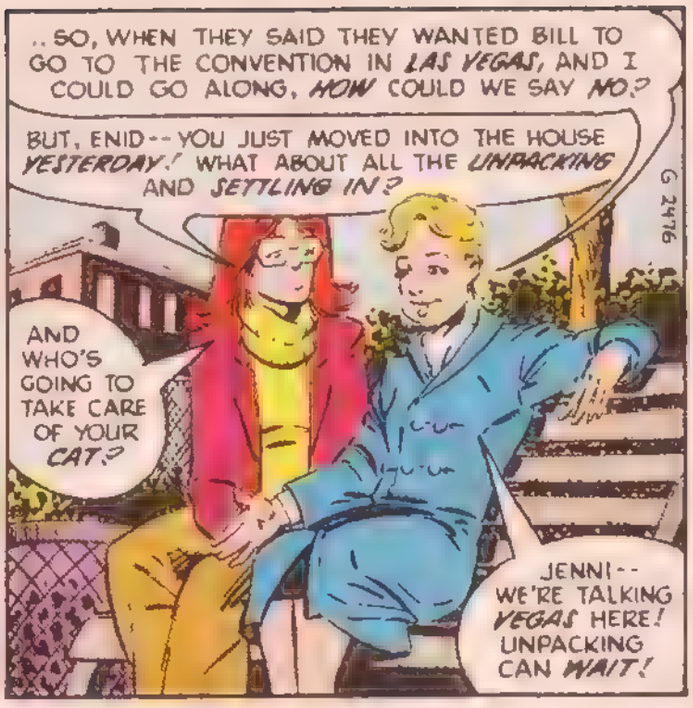
# mazing man

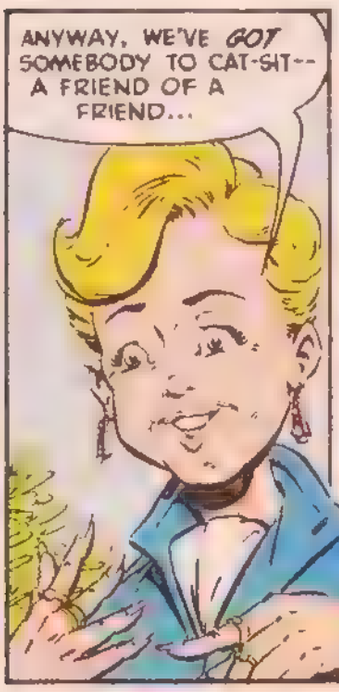
# kitty CATASTROPHE

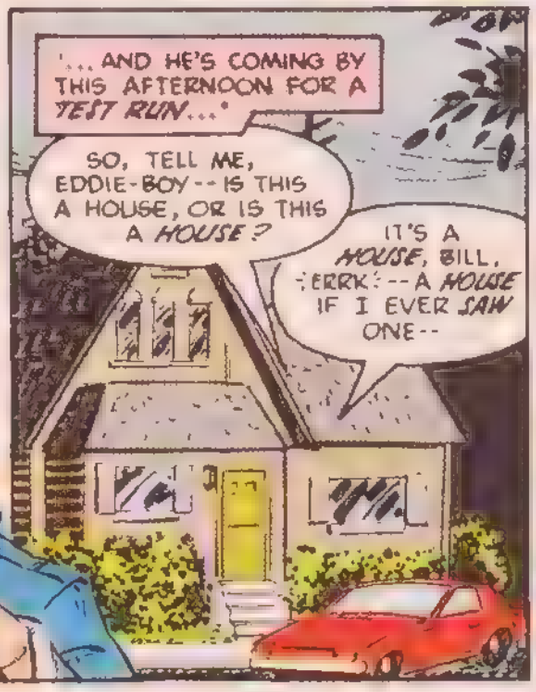
( A TRUE STORY... ALMOST )

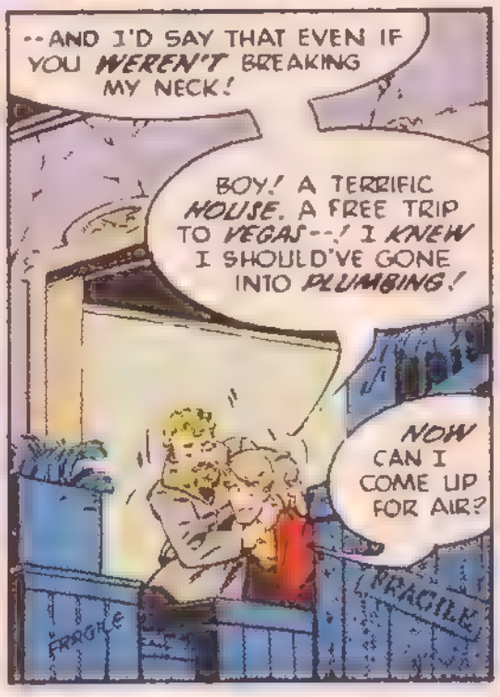
by "TABBY" DeSTEFANO & "FLUFFY" ROZAKIS!

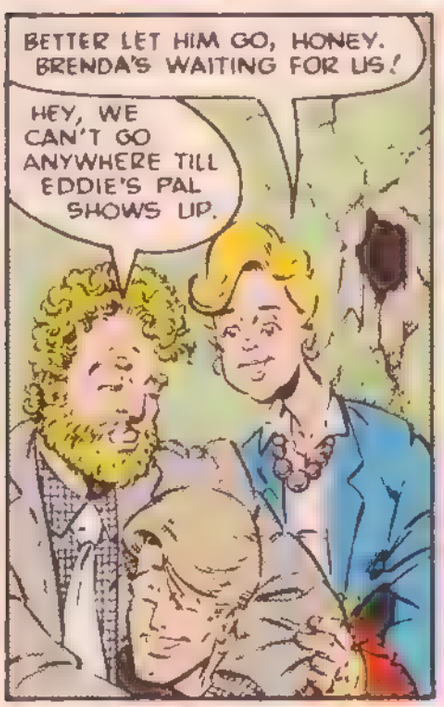
INKED BY "MAITE" KESEL 🐾 LETTERED BY "SYLVESTER" LAPPAN
COLORED BY "FELIX" ZIUKO 🐾 EDITED BY "ALAN" GOLD

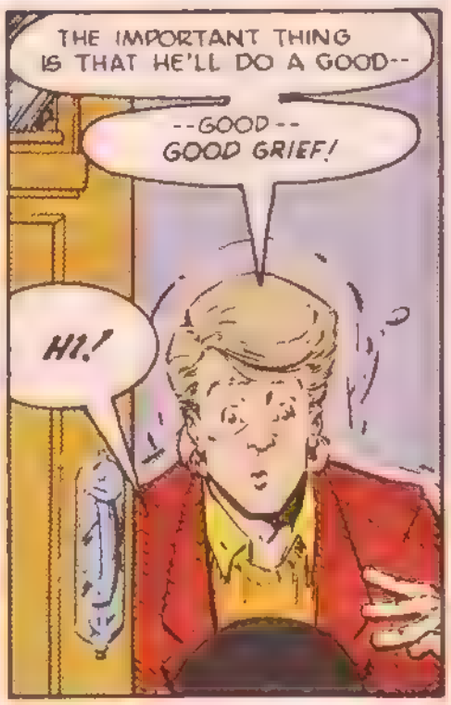

..SO, WHEN THEY SAID THEY WANTED BILL TO GO TO THE CONVENTION IN LAS VEGAS, AND I COULD GO ALONG, HOW COULD WE SAY NO?
BUT, ENID--YOU JUST MOVED INTO THE HOUSE YESTERDAY! WHAT ABOUT ALL THE UNPACKING AND SETTLING IN?
AND WHO'S GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR CAT?
JENNI--WE'RE TALKING VEGAS HERE! UNPACKING CAN WAIT!
G 2476

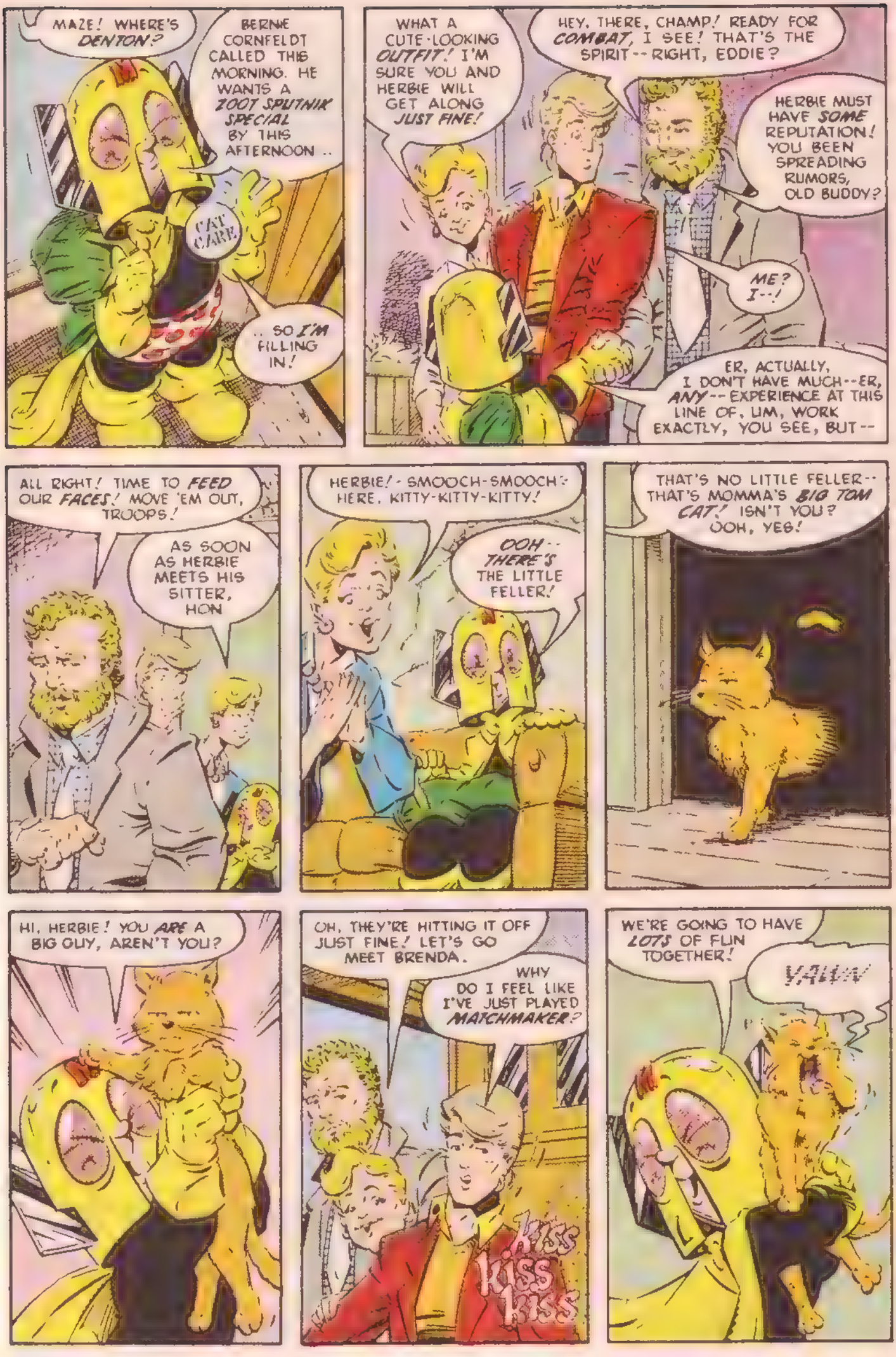




'...AND HE'S COMING BY THIS AFTERNOON FOR A TEST RUN...'
SO, TELL ME, EDDIE-BOY--IS THIS A HOUSE, OR IS THIS A HOUSE?
IT'S A HOUSE, BILL. ERRK!--A HOUSE IF I EVER SAW ONE--


--AND I'D SAY THAT EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T BREAKING MY NECK!
BOY! A TERRIFIC HOUSE, A FREE TRIP TO VEGAS--! I KNEW I SHOULD'VE GONE INTO PLUMBING!
NOW CAN I COME UP FOR AIR?
FRAGILE
FRAGILE






MAZE! WHERE'S DENTON?
BERNIE CORNFELDT CALLED THIS MORNING. HE WANTS A ZOOT SPUTNIK SPECIAL BY THIS AFTERNOON ..
CAT CARE
.. SO I'M FILLING IN!
WHAT A CUTE-LOOKING OUTFIT! I'M SURE YOU AND HERBIE WILL GET ALONG JUST FINE!
HEY, THERE, CHAMP! READY FOR COMBAT, I SEE! THAT'S THE SPIRIT -- RIGHT, EDDIE?
HERBIE MUST HAVE SOME REPUTATION! YOU BEEN SPREADING RUMORS, OLD BUDDY?
ME? I--!
ER, ACTUALLY, I DON'T HAVE MUCH--ER, ANY -- EXPERIENCE AT THIS LINE OF, UM, WORK EXACTLY, YOU SEE, BUT --
ALL RIGHT! TIME TO FEED OUR FACES! MOVE 'EM OUT, TROOPS!
AS SOON AS HERBIE MEETS HIS SITTER, HON
HERBIE! - SMOOCH-SMOOCH - HERE, KITTY-KITTY-KITTY!
OOH -- THERE'S THE LITTLE FELLER!
THAT'S NO LITTLE FELLER -- THAT'S MOMMA'S BIG TOM CAT! ISN'T YOU? OOH, YES!
HI, HERBIE! YOU ARE A BIG GUY, AREN'T YOU?
OH, THEY'RE HITTING IT OFF JUST FINE! LET'S GO MEET BRENDA.
WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I'VE JUST PLAYED MATCHMAKER?
kiss kiss kiss
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE LOTS OF FUN TOGETHER!
YAUW

SLAM!
THEY'RE GONE. IT'S JUST YOU AND ME NOW, HERBIE!
MRRKOWWW
CAT FOOD
COME ON, HERBIE! WAIT TILL YOU SEE ALL THE NEAT THINGS I BROUGHT!
KITTY SNACKS! TOYS! A BALL OF YARN!
CAT NIPS
EVERYTHING A CAT COULD WANT!
THAT-A-BOY! WHAT'LL WE DO FIRST? SNUGGLE TOGETHER?
OMIGOSH!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

HERBIE, HIDE-'N-SEEK'S OKAY -- BUT THIS HAS TO BE RULED OUT AS A HIDING PLACE!
I CAN'T COME IN THERE AFTER YOU!
COME ON, HERBIE. DO-OVER. I'LL CLOSE MY EYES AND COUNT.
...HERBIE...?
ARE YOU... STUCK IN THERE?
WHERE ARE YOU? PURR IF I'M GETTING WARMER.
I HEAR YOU, HERBIE! I COPY LOUD AND CLEAR! DON'T YOU WORRY...
MRROWW
...HANG IN THERE -- I CAN STRETCH MY ARM A LI-I-ITTLE FURTHER...
GIVE ME A PAW, HERBIE! PLEASE, HELP ME OUT!
LAZY SUSAN
MICROWAVE

LITTLE SNAG IN OUR PLANS, HERBIE! I'M STUCK, TOO! GIVE ME A MINUTE...
:OOF:
KRAK!
UH-OH.
KRKKKRKKKRKKK
WHOOM
THERE!
OH, NO--!

NNNGGHH.

FWOOM!

WHEW. THAT WAS TOUGH.

YIKES!

GOOD GRAVY! WHAT'M I GONNA TELL EDDIE'S FRIENDS WHEN THEY COME HO--!

YOO-HOO. WE'RE BACK!

MAZE! WHAT DID YOU DO!?

LOOK, BILL! ISN'T THAT NICE OF MR. 'MAZING!?

"NICE"?! LOOK WHAT HE'S DONE!

I SEE IT-- AND I *LOVE* IT.

SEE, BILL--TAKING THAT WALL OUT OPENS UP THE WHOLE HOUSE!

SURE, ENID. SURE.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, MR. 'MAZING MAN!

UMMM... YOU'RE WELCOME.

BILL AND I *DISCUSSED* TAKING OUT A WALL TO EXTEND THE LIVING ROOM--DIDN'T WE, BILL?-- AND NOW IT'S STARTED *FOR* US!

YEAH--SO NOW YOU AND YOUR PAL CAN HELP ME *FINISH* THE JOB-- RIGHT, ED?

UH... SURE THING, BILL. WE WERE, UH, *COUNTING* ON THAT! RIGHT, MAZE?

UMMM-- CHECK!

SO! BILL PICKED UP *TWO* NEW ACCOUNTS *AND* WE WON $150 IN THE CASINO! THAT TRIP REALLY *PAID OFF* FOR US!

OH, THAT'S GREAT, ENID! BUT TELL ME-- *HOW* DID THE CAT-SITTER WORK OUT?

CUTE LITTLE MAZE? I RECOMMEND HIM TO *ANYBODY!*

JUST WHAT I WAS *HOPING* YOU'D SAY! LARRY AND I ARE OFF TO FLORIDA FOR A WEEK...

"...AND HE CAN KEEP OUR REX OUT OF TROUBLE..."

THE END